UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.85/L.84
29 July 1992

ENGLISH ONLY

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION: FIELD COLLECTION OF NAMES

Procedure for the collection and data recording of place-names

Paper submitted by Norway**

---

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by Botolv Helleland, Department of Name Research, University of Oslo.

92-35560 4069a (E) 100892 120892

/...

1. Introduction

The collection of place-names, i.e. the names of natural and man-made localities, has gone on in Norway for over a hundred years and the material collected in the Norwegian archives has grown steadily. Even so there is still a long way to go before all the name material available in oral and written sources has been scientifically registered.

In the early days names were collected for use on maps of various scales and for use in public and private registers, for example the names of farms. That is to say names which were used in cartography or administration. In more recent years a number of local authorities have undertaken a complete registration of all the names in their areas, including the names of parts of fields and other minor natural features. Detailed local collections of this sort have, in some cases, been carried out by retired people who have been instructed in the work.

The work of collecting place-names can thus be roughly divided into two groups:

- registration for map production and administrative use

- detailed collection of all names for general practical use or for linguistic or historical purposes

It is the latter type which is described in detail below.

2. Norwegian Place-Name Data Base

The decision to establish the Norwegian Place-Name Database was taken at a national conference in 1987. (This data base should not be mixed up with the Central Place-Name Register administrated by the Norwegian Mapping Authority.) All the names to do with settlement, farming and natural features in the country were to be collected according to an agreed procedure. In this project the Department of Name Research at the University of Oslo has co-operated with the other universities and institutions which are involved in the scientific collection of place-names. In 1991 the University of Oslo initiated the work of making the existing material, which was registered on index cards, machine-readable so that it can be linked to the main data base.

The Place-Name Data Base will be available to various archives and other public and private users either through a network system or in the form of copies on diskettes. It is estimated that there are 4-5 million place-names in Norway. Most of these are no longer in regular use and fewer than half this number have been registered systematically. The regional departments of the Norwegian Place-Name Data Base have in total about two hundred thousand names, but the work of computer registration is still in progress and it is hoped that most of the material that has been collected will be registered on computer in the course of about ten years.

The Place-Name Data Base is organized in spheres and when the material is registered it will be possible to obtain specialized registers organized according to linguistic, semantic or area categories.

The work of compiling the Norwegian Place-Name Data Base has been divided into two phases:

- the collection and preparation of name material
- computerization

3. The Collection of Place-Names

3.1. Financing, Organization, Personnel, Training

The systematic registration of place-names on a large scale requires thorough planning. Four important factors must be considered:

- financing
- organization
- personnel
- methods

The collection of names and the planning, financing, training of personnel, purchase/hire of equipment should be the responsibility of one individual or preferably a steering committee. At the local level it is best to organize the work of collection within the local council or parish, but, for the sake of efficiency, it is best to co-ordinate the work of the local groups in larger units, for example, a county area. This work should be under the leadership of the academic institutions. Instructors should also be from the university

departments or other institutions which specialize in place-name research. Training should be linked to the practical work of collecting names and follow-up courses should be held. In addition to the people who do the work of field collection there should also be a supervisor who is responsible for the work within the local area.

The state, county and local council authorities can all be expected to provide funding for place-name registration work. Special funds for use in local history projects may also be available. The collection of names in a particular local area should be completed within the period of time projected, for example, 1-2 years, if sufficient resources are available. In some cases it may be necessary to allow the work to continue over a longer period of time using a low budget. Regardless of the speed of collection it is important that the work is carried out in accordance with the main aims for the collection of place-names.

The systematic registration of place-names is a time-consuming process which is extremely expensive if done by highly qualified personnel. It is therefore very important to use students, pensioners and other lower-paid workers. In a number of projects in Norway unemployed people have taken part in this work as part of a series of public job creation schemes.

3.2 The Method for the Collection of Place-Names

As the most of the registration is from oral sources the actual collection of names takes the form of an interview with the local informant. Informants should be elderly people who have been born and brought up in the area concerned and who speak the local dialect.

They should know the place-names as part of their active or passive vocabulary.

For maximum efficiency a standardized form for place-name registration should be used (see example). As can be seen from the form the following information on each name should be obtained:

a) reference number, also to be registered on the map

b) dialect form of the name

c) standardized form

d) associated preposition

e) type of locality

f) other information on the place, tradition

g) map reference

h) farm property (cadastral) reference number

In addition the name and age of the informant should be recorded together with the name of the interviewer and the date of the interview. It is extremely important to ascertain the traditional pronunciation of the name. In order to obtain a reliable record of the pronunciation it is necessary to make a tape recording of the interview, either while the form is being filled in or afterwards. The recording can be used later by qualified personnel who can write the name in phonetic script.

The name should be recorded on a large scale map, preferably 1:5000 or 1:10 000 if available (see example of map section). If there is no adequate map of the area a smaller

scale map may be used or a sketch of the area can be drawn by hand. Each name is given a consecutive reference number which appears on both the registration form and the map. It is practical to number the names within the area covered by one map sheet and to start numbering again from 1 when moving on to a new map sheet. The number should be written in the centre of the locality to which the name belongs. Other names which are already on the map should also be included. As far as possible all the names in the area should be included. The use of natural resources in earlier times should be systematically investigated so as to obtain names which are in the process of being forgotten. It is also possible to activate the informant's passive knowledge of names by taking the localities on the map, for example, plains, valleys, hills, watercourses, etc. one by one and asking if they are named.

3.3 Conservation of the Material

As the collection in each area, represented by one or more map sheets, is completed the material should be handed in to the person or institution responsible for the area. The person responsible checks that the registration has been carried out according to instructions and places the lists of names, maps and tapes in a safe place (it is practical to keep all the material belonging to the area covered by one map sheet together in, for example, a box or a large envelope). In many cases the area supervisor will need to contact the name collectors/interviewers to ensure that they complete the work within the time allowed.

4. Computer Registration

When the collection of names in a given area nears completion the collected material can be prepared for computer registration. The coding of the individual items should be done by one of the academic institutions involved in place-name research. The actual typing onto computer can then be done by unskilled workers either at the same institution or elsewhere, but the results should be proof-read by qualified personnel.

An ordinary data base programme on PC or Macintosh can be used for computer registration. A registration form appears on the screen and the items of information from the interview form can be filled in. When the form on the screen is completed the information is stored and a new form can be brought onto the screen ready for the next name.

The form that is used for the Norwegian Place-Name Data Base consists of 33 fields of limited size and one unlimited field for comments. For some of the fields completion is compulsory (marked by capital letters in this particular programme) while others are optional (i.e. they are completed only if the operator has the necessary competence, for example, morpheme analysis, division into codes for natural and cultural circumstances). The fields which record the same information several times can be filled in by the programme automatically.

When the name material for an area has been collected and computerized the map references can be added to the data base automatically using a digitizing tablet. In Norway this process has so far been carried out in co-operation with the County Mapping Offices.

5. The Use of the Data Base

As the data base for place-names gradually expands it will be possible to search for particular names, or types of name, in particular areas, and to print out lists of selected material for educational, linguistic, historical, cultural or practical purposes, for example, in the naming of roads and firms in the area, and not least in the production of new, large scale maps.

6. Tables

Table 1: Registration form for collecting place-names. Example from Landvik, Grimstad in the county of Aust-Agder. Original size A4 format.

STADNAMNLISTE NR 1 AV ____

OPPSKRIVAR: Olav Stuestøl DATO: 2/6-72 INFORMANT: Lars Øye F.ÅR: 1905

FYLKE: Aust-Agder KOMMUNE: Grimstad KARTBLAD (ØK) / NAMN: Syndlesøva

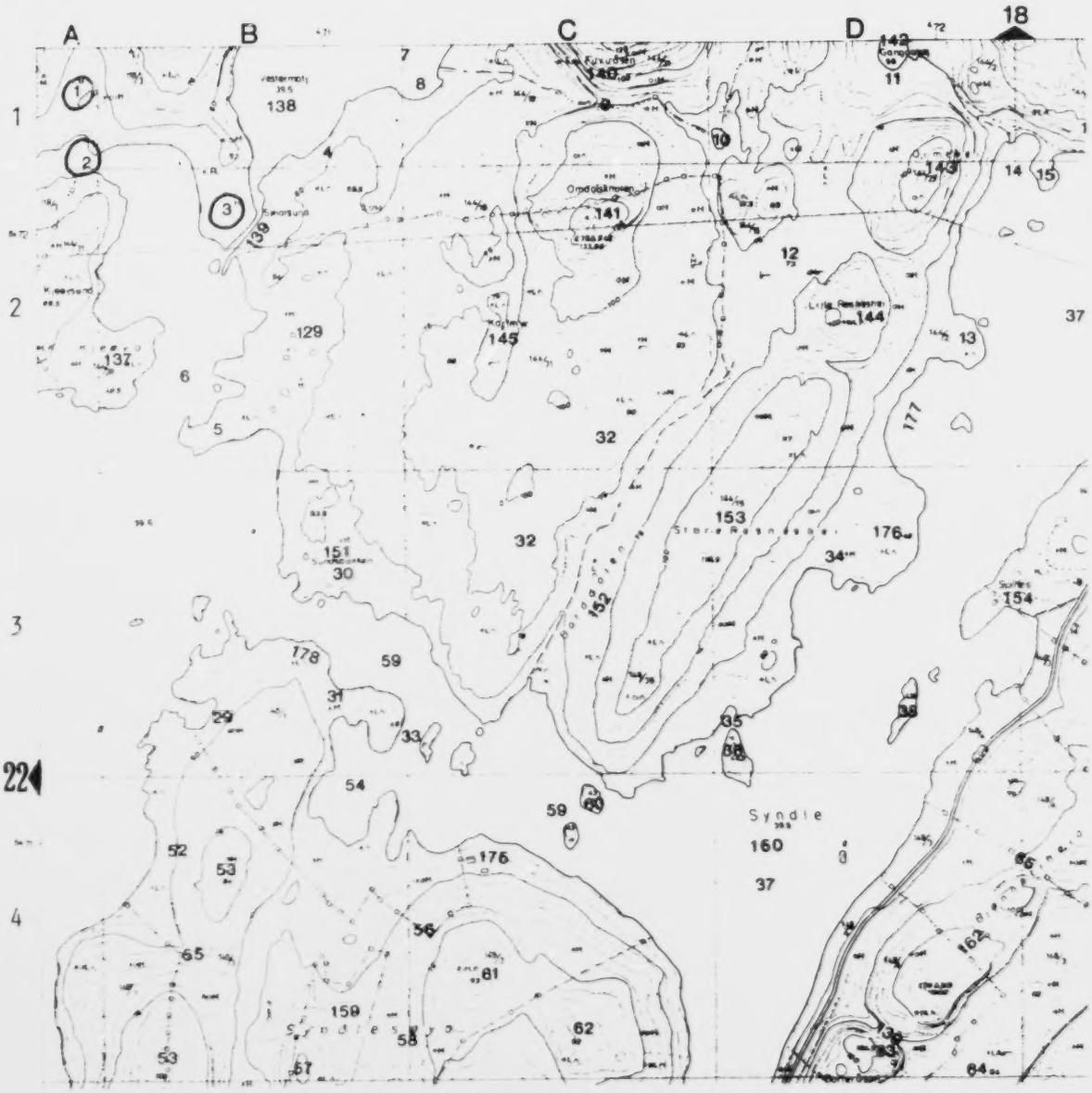
TIDL. HERAD: Landvik SOKN: Landvik NR: BP 009-5-1

NR.	STADNAMN (DIAL. OG EVT. DATIVFORM)	PREP	NAMN PÅ	ANDRE OPPLYSNINGAR (Bruk heile liner om det trengst, evt. baksida)	G.NR/ BR.NR	KART-RUTE	OPPSLAGSFORM/ LYDSKRIFT	LYDB.NR TELJEVERK
1	Lisledal	i	dal	Liten dal med fuktig grunn nytta som beite, tidlegare	118/3 slått	A1	Lisledal ˈlisləda:l	1-10
2	Lislesonn	i	sund	Sund i Syndle på sørsida av Lisledal, god fiskestad	-"-	-"-	Lislesund ˈlisləsün:	11-14
3	Berenes	på	nes	Nes mellom Vestermotjørna og Syndle. Jamt avrunda	-"-	B2	Berenes ˈbe:rəne:s	15-24

(To be filled in by an academic)

.../

Table 2: Sector of an original map (Økonomisk kartverk), diminished, original scale 1:5000.



/...

Table 3: Registration form (screen picture) for the computerization of place-names. The English translation of the field texts (instructions) is given below.

```
Ordre:M                  Registrering/endring av post :      1   F17:Utvid-P
 1.LPENR: ______  2.KARTSERIE, KARTBLADNR., -NAVN: _____________________________
 3.KARTRUTE: _______ 4.INNSAM.NR.: ____  5.KOOR.-NORD: _______  6.ST: _______
 7.NORMERT SKRIFTFORM/OPPSLAGSORD: _____________________________________
 8.Alternativ(e) skriftform(er)  : _____________________________________
 9.KOMMUNENR: _____ 10.Sokn: _____________________ 11.Gnr+bnr: ___________
12.INFORMANT (ETTER- og F.NAVN, FDSELSR): _____________________________________
13.OPPSKRIVER (ETTER-OG F.NAVN, OPPSKR.R): _____________________________________
14.Oppskriverform, dialektform: _____________________________
15.LYDSKRIFT: _____________________________
16.Preposisjon: _____________ 17.Dativ: _____________________________________
18.LOKALT APPELLATIV (Hva er navnet navn p?): _____________________
19.LOKALITETSTYPE - NATURKODE: ____ 20.KULTURKODE(n): ____ 21.Tidligere: ____
22.Leddanalyse utm.ledd: _____________________ 23.Hov.ledd: _____________________
24.Grammatisk analyse utm.ledd: _____________ 25.Hov.ledd: _____________
26.Etymologi: _____________________________________________________________
27.Lydbndtilvising: _____________________ 28.ARKIVERINGSSTED: _____________
29.Litteraturref.: _____________________________________________________________
30.Andre navn p samme sted: _____________________________
31.Tradisjon: _____________________________________________________________
32.Sprk: _____ 33.Matr.form: _____________________________________________
99.Kommentar: _____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
F18:ANGRE   F9: AutoKopi:AV   F10: Kopi:P   F1:FORTSETT   F2:FERDIG
```

/...

English translation of the field texts:

1. Index number, automatically generated
2. Map series, map sheet number/name
3. Map grid
4. Name reference number (also marked on the map)
5. Co-ordinate - North
6. Co-ordinate - East
7. Standardized form of the collected place-name
8. Alternative written forms
9. Local district number
10. Parish
11. Cadastral number of the farm on which the name is found
12. Informant(s) - surname, first name, year of birth
13. Field worker (interviewer), surname, first name, date of interview
14. Dialect form of the collected name
15. Phonetic notation (written by an expert from audio record)
16. Associate preposition
17. Dative (if found)
18. Local designation/appellative of the named feature (locality)
19. Code for type of natural feature (locality)
20. Code for type of cultural feature (locality)
21. Code for passed function
22. Morpheme analysis of first element (if the name is compund)
23. Morpheme analysis of final/main element
24. Grammatical analysis of first element (if the name is compound)
25. Grammatical analysis of final (main) element
26. Etymology
27. Audio record (cassette) reference
28. Stored at (name of archives)
29. Reference works
30. Other name(s) for the same feature (locality)
31. Tradition
32 Language (Norwegian/Sami/Finnish)
33. Cadastral form
99. Remarks/additional information

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.85/L.85
30 July 1992

ENGLISH ONLY

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda*

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL NAMES AUTHORITIES

The Norwegian Place-name Act

Paper submitted by Norway**

---

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by Botolv Helleland, Department of Name Research, University of Oslo. The paper was previously presented at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts, held at Geneva, November 1991.

92-35563 3505d (E) 100892 120892

/...

1. The Legislation

The Norwegian Place-name Act was passed by the Norwegian Parliament (Stortinget) on 22 February 1990 and sanctioned on 18 May 1990. The Act came into effect on 1 July 1991. Further regulations will be given by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The fact that this Act applies exclusively to the standardization and use of place-names makes it unique in the international context.

2. Background

The place-name regulations which were in force previously did not have the status of law, but legislation was needed to give legal weight to decisions concerning the standardization of place-names. The legal right to determine the written form of the name of the property was previous in the hands of the farm owner. In many cases the form chosen by the individual did not comply with the form recommended by the authorities on the basis of the linguistic and cultural history of the place-name.

In the 1960s a number of property owners brought court cases against the State in order to have the official written form of place-names changed. The State lost these cases due to insufficient legislation. Later a research programme was conducted with a view to producing adequate and unambiguous regulations which would on the one hand give the State the necessary legal power to determine written forms and on the other hand take into account the interests of the individual. An official Place-name Committee was appointed in 1979 and presented its recommendations in the NOU 1983:6: Stadnamn (the series of Norwegian Official Reports No. 6, 1983, Place-Names). From 1983-89 the Ministry of Cultural Affairs prepared a parliamentary bill which went through the Norwegian Parliament during the 1989-90 session and was passed in the spring of 1990.

The opposition between the two forms of the Norwegian language has been a contributory factor in many place-name disputes. More than 400 years of Danish rule ensured that Danish was the dominant written language in Norway until the mid-nineteenth century. All place-names were also written in Danish and in many cases the Danish form was based on a misunderstanding of the original name. The process of re-establishing Norwegian forms was made possible by, among other things, the formulation of "Nynorsk", the written form of Norwegian based on the Norwegian dialects. Controversies about place-names have often been between supporters of the two forms of the language with those on the one side wanting to maintain the established Danish form and those on the other side favouring the "Nynorsk" written form based on the dialect pronunciation. The latter was preferred by the authorities who composed the standardization regulations for place-names at the beginning of this century. However, the Danish written forms were to a great extent kept in cases where the farm names were used as family names. Many property owners prefer to have the name of the property written in the same way as their family name, without regard for the local pronunciation or spelling rules.

3. The Main Elements of the Act

3.1. Area of Jurisdiction

The Place-name Act applies on the Norwegian main land. It does not apply on Svalbard, Jan Mayen, the Norwegian Dependencies, the Norwegian continental shelf or the Norwegian economic zone. The Norwegian Polar Research Institute has issued special regulations which apply in these areas.

3.2. Uniform Standardization in Official Contexts

Place-names which have been authorized in accordance with the Place-Name Act are to be used by all official bodies. If a place-name has two or more written forms in use in the same language one of the forms is to take precedence. Where a locality has a Sami name and/or a Finnish name in addition to a Norwegian name both/all names should, as a rule, be used. On signs or maps where two or more names are used, they should appear in the order Norwegian, Sami, Finnish, except in areas where Sami is the administrative language, in which case the Sami name should appear first.

3.3. Standardization is to be based on local pronunciation and current spelling rules

The standardization of a place-name is to be based on traditional pronunciation and must comply with current rules for the spelling of one of the two forms of Norwegian, "Bokmål" or "Nynorsk". For the Sami language the current spelling rules for "Nordsamisk", "Lulesamisk" and "Sørsamisk" apply. For Finnish place-names in Norway the Finnish spelling rules apply, but with regional modifications. These principles also apply to the inherited (traditional) names of farms and other properties. Newly created place-names, literary names and foreign names need not be standardized according to these principles.

3.4. The Authorization Process

The official body which uses the place-name in question is to authorize its written form. This is done by the Norwegian Mapping Authority, the Postal Services, the Public Roads Administration and other state departments, and by county or local councils. The majority of place-names are authorized by the eighteen county offices of the Mapping Authority. The names for properties and other private concerns are established by the owners within the limits stated above. Local town and county councils authorize the names of roads, streets and council properties.

Public bodies, property owners, local organizations and place-name advisors are all by law entitled to initiate the evaluation of the written form of a name. This process may be required in connection with the issue of new or revised maps, or with the naming of roads and other features.

Before the written form of a name is authorized all parties concerned must be consulted. The local usage of the name and the wishes of the local population must be noted. The local hearing is the responsibility of the local council. After having considered the statements from the local hearing and the relevant linguistic material the place-name advisors make recommendations to the authorizing body. The official authorization of the name must be accompanied by a statement giving the reasons for the choice of standardized form. This statement is particularly important in the case of controversial names. The local council and, if relevant, the property owner must be be officially informed of the authorization of the place-name.

3.5. Place-Name Advisors

The Place-name Act has entailed an extension of the advisory service and the division of the field of responsibility into regions. There are now two place-name advisors at each of the four universities in Norway; in Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Tromsø, dealing with the standardization in the corresponding regions. In addition there are two or more positions for advisors for Sami and Finnish place-names. At each of the universities, there is a position for an assistant advisor whose function is to prepare cases for the advisors. The advisors and the assistants must have university qualifications in Nordic languages. The place-name advisors, who are engaged for a period of six years, are responsible for making sure that place-names are written in accordance with the law. The advisory service is financed by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

3.6. The Place-name Register

A central computerized register of all Norwegian place-names in official use is being compiled under the direction of the Norwegian Mapping Authority. The Register is based on the Norwegian Map Series N50 (earlier M711) on the scale of 1:50,000. Names on other official maps will gradually be added to the register. New place-names which come into use and changes in the existing standardized forms are to be notified to the Place-Name Register. Names which have been standardized by law will be marked with a special code. The register also contains information on map sheets, designation/type of locality, language, authorizing body, if the name is authorizied/proposed/rejected/not evaluated, date of consideration, source, and other comments. The register is available to anyone who may be interested in the information it contains. The Mapping Authority has now employed a specialist in name research to deal with the linguistic aspects of the register.

3.7. Appeals Committee

An Appeals Committee has been established to deal with complaints about the standardized forms of place-names. The chairman of the Committee must be a High Court judge. Official bodies which use place-names, local organizations, and property owners have the right of appeal. Place-name advisors, on the other hand, do not have the right of appeal.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.85/L.86
11 August 1992

ENGLISH ONLY

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 12 (b) of the provisional agenda*

TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND PRACTICE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: TRAINING COURSES IN TOPONYMY

Report on the toponymy course for southern Africa, held in Pretoria from 29 June to 9 July 1992

Paper submitted by the United Nations Group of
Experts on Geographical Names**

---

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by Ferjan Ormeling, Netherlands, Temporary Convenor of the Working Group on Courses in Applied Toponymy.

92-37606 3359g (E) 170892 200892

/...

1. UNGEGN members, together with the University of Pretoria and the Onomastic Research Centre (ORC), Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa, organized a training course in toponomy for 45 participants from Southern Africa at the University of Pretoria in Pretoria, South Africa, from June 29 to July 9, 1992. Though the project to have a toponymy course in Africa south of the Sahara has been discussed frequently at UNGEGN meetings, this was the first time such a course really took off. The course provided a good programme, was well-attended and well-evaluated.

2. The two-week programme consisted of lectures, exercises and fieldwork, and this programme, which linked theory and practice, was organized on a module basis:

1. Names recording, storage and dissemination
2. Languages, scripts and names conversion
3. Standardization of geographical names
4. National names authorities
5. Collecting names in the field
6. Names placement on maps, toponymic guidelines
7. Toponymic research
8. Toponymic databases and GIS
9. Placenames in South Africa

Participants could register for single modules, but most of them attended the whole programme, which benefitted the continuity of the course.

The programme was more science-oriented than the UNGEGN courses that were held until now, with emphasis also on toponymic semantics, etymology and research. The results of some recently done research on Bible-derived placenames in South Africa were for the first time presented at this course (by Professors Hattingh and Kadmon).

3. The course was organized by a committee consisting of Prof.Dr.N.Kadmon, Prof.P.S.Hattingh of Pretoria University, Dr L.Möller and Dr P.E.Raper, both of the Onomastic Research Centre of the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa. The local organisation was borne by the staff of the University of Pretoria Department of Geography.

The programme was mainly realized by UNGEGN members: Dr Raper (UNGEGN's Chairman), Ms H.Kerfoot (UNGEGN's Vice-Chair), Prof.Kadmon (Convenor of UNGEGN's Terminology Working Group) and Prof.Dr F.J.Ormeling (Convenor of UNGEGN Working Group on Applied Toponymy Courses). Together they presented 20 lectures. This lecture team was strengthened by local experts on terminology, coordinate systems, topographic mapping, street names, African languages, semantics, and toponymic research methods : altogether 30 lectures were presented.

4. All modules had exercises, most of which were organized by Prof.Kadmon. At the closing session of the course the participants were issued with certificates on the basis of their participation in the course.

5. The 45 course participants came from Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. Half the participants were native speakers of African languages. The participants came from i.a.:
- private cartographic firms (2)
- official (national) mapping establishments (2)
- geography university departments (7)
- African language university departments (10)
- English or Afrikaans university departments (2)
- government/university education departments (5)
- university History departments (1)
- municipalities (1)

6. It was the intention of the course fieldwork, held in the eastern part of the Transvaal province, on the Swaziland border, to get practical experience with data gathering techniques. This module will be followed up in 1993, when under the auspices of the UNGEGN and the ORC of the Human Sciences Research Council a special course on toponymic fieldwork techniques will be organized in the Northern Transvaal.

The hands-on experience with the handling of toponymical databases and geographical information systems proved to be at least as important as the fieldwork. The participants were able to experiment with the manipulation of a number of databases (on Khoekhoen languages and on names with water-related elements in them) that were specially created for this purpose. Every participant had a PC at his disposal for doing these exercises. Those that were not computer users were not turned into experts in these two weeks, but at least all participants got a good idea of the potential of these automated techniques.

All aspects of the names collecting, editing, analysis and representation activities were practised, e.g. exercises in analytical techniques, in representing the results of this research, map lettering exercises in order to show the kind of problems cartographers have to face when lettering the maps, especially with long names. There were also exercises in querying databases and mapping the results, in building subsets based on toponymic criteria, etc.

7. Of course it is too early to point to lasting effects of the course, but during the two weeks it was held, it became obvious that a tremendous amount of toponymic work has been done in Southern Africa and that there is a very active group of people engaged in this work.

As happened before in other toponymy courses (when toponomists meet for the first time under an international aegis) this apparently creates a conducive atmosphere. During the course two momentous decisions were made: one was the decision to establish a Southern African Geographical Names Dictionary unit - a multilingual and multicultural unit that would transcend the actual political and administrative subdivisions. The other, even more important, was to start a Southern African place name survey which would transcend present political boundaries.

8. The two weeks the course took were considered ample (as the weekend in-between was devoted to the fieldwork excursion module).

therefore the previous UNGEGN recommendation to have a three-week course was not considered necessary. Moreover, to take participants more than two weeks from their working environment poses too great an interruption to their jobs.

9. For the first time there was a significant input from the private sector, and this proved to be very worthwhile indeed. It made the other participants, civil servants and academics from universities or administration, realize the pressure UNGEGN is under to promote the production of national standardization, gazetteers, lists of exonyms and toponymical guidelines, as the private sector is eagerly awaiting those.

10. The formula to fly in a small number of experts, abreast of international trends and developments, to be strengthened by local experts, aware of local conditions and requirements, proved to be most useful, and the least expensive solution to be arranged at relatively short notice. This is a formula the International Cartographic Association has followed for two decades now.

11. The joint fieldwork proved to be a course element that provided a sort of team spirit. In a situation in which future cooperation between neighbouring countries is desirable, this is a desirable aspect to aim for.

12. Too little attention was paid in the lectures to the actual funding aspects of toponymic activities (such as the costs of toponymical fieldwork, the cost of the creation of digital names files, etc). In future courses these funding aspects should be covered as well.

13. Future UN toponymy courses should be advertised longer in advance, in order to allow potential participants and the UN enough time to organize the necessary funding. Potential participants from countries like Lesotho were unable to organize the funding of their travelling expenses. To address this problem, which is also an issue of concern to the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the Chairman of UNGEGN proposes the establishment of an UNGEGN Fund to enable indigent experts to participate in UNGEGN activities. The fact that so many Southern African toponymists participated in the course is due to the enthusiasm of the organizers and the need for such training, as expressed unanimously by the participants.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.85/L.87
11 August 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 12 (b) of the provisional agenda*

TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND PRACTICE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: TRAINING COURSES IN TOPONYMY

Report of the Temporary Convenor of the Working Group on Toponymy Courses

Paper submitted by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by Ferjan Ormeling, Netherlands, Temporary Convenor of the Working Group on Courses in Applied Toponymy.

92-37609 3430j (E) 140892 200892

/...

1. One of the problems discussed by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names is the lack of personnel in member countries that are qualified in toponymy. For this reason the Group of Experts has placed emphasis on the organization of training courses in this subject and has stimulated such organization by both moral and financial support. Courses sponsored by the Group of Experts and by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) have been held in:

Cisarua, Indonesia (1982), Rabat, Morocco (1985), Panama (1987), Québec, Canada (1988), Cipanas, Indonesia (1989), Quito, Ecuador (1989), Aguascalientes, Mexico (1991) and Pretoria, South Africa (1992). The languages of these courses have been Spanish, Arabic and English.

2. The general model of these courses has been a two-week programme of lectures, alternated by practical exercises and field work. In these courses usually the complete procedure, from names collecting in the field through office editing to representation of the names on maps, was covered and exercises given.

3. The aim of the courses has been, generally,

(a) To prepare the participants for all sorts of issues and problems in toponymy on which they would have to make decisions later, with the hope that these will be well-informed decisions;

(b) Transfer of knowledge and guidelines, showing the example of other countries with more advanced toponymic programmes, and the transfer of expertise through practical exercises;

(c) To refer the participants to all sorts of publications that might be helpful in the work and to all available sources.

4. The Convenor's job is to:

(a) Stimulate the organization of courses;

(b) Act as a clearing-house for teaching materials and information on course programmes; planned courses, and available lectures;

(c) Coordinate the offer of and demand for courses;

(d) Prepare toponymic experts world wide for an attitude in which they are willing to invest their time, for nominal fees, in the schooling of their colleagues all over the world;

(e) Induce course organizers to publish course proceedings, and make them available for toponymists all over the world.

5. For the period covered in this report (November 1991-September 1992) the aims stated in paragraph 4 have not been met completely, though progress has been made. Teaching material in the English language is increasing (manuals

by Orth and by Kadmon), but efforts should be taken to translate them into other United Nations languages (Orth's manual has been translated into French). The Canadian-produced Toponymy Course Kit (see para. 9 below) is available in English and French.

6. Though this was requested, no course material from the PAIGH-sponsored courses was obtained by the Convenor, nor information on their content.

7. The Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names should be a good forum to request United Nations Member States to provide information to the Convenor of the Working Group on courses, and on lecturers willing to participate and enabled to do so by their Governments.

8. The temporary Convenor took part in the organization, and in the lecturing programme, of the United Nations Training Course in Toponymy for Southern Africa. He is at present trying to organize a follow-up course.

9. The work of the Convenor was greatly helped by the efforts of Canada in providing a Toponymy Course Kit, consisting of manuals, literature, brochures and other relevant material, free of charge to course participants. Both the courses in Cipanas (Indonesia) and Pretoria (South Africa) have profited greatly from this Canadian endeavour.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.85/L.88
11 August 1992

ENGLISH ONLY

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 12 (f) of the provisional agenda*

TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND PRACTICE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report on coordination of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names with other technical and professional groups

Paper submitted by the United Nations Group of
Experts on Geographical Names**

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by Ferjan Ormeling, Netherlands, Ad Hoc Working Group on Coordination of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names with other technical and professional groups.

92-37612 3306c (E) 180892 200892

/...

1. During the 14th session of UNGEGN in Geneva it was decided to strengthen coordination of UNGEGN with other technical and professional groups. For this end an ad-hoc sub-commission of the UNGEGN working group on evaluation was appointed, with F.J.Ormeling as convenor and Mr Mbika-Mbonguila, Mrs E.Narhi, Mr Park and Mr P.Raper as co-members.

2. This ad-hoc working group decided to make a) a clear proposal as to what UNGEGN hopes to achieve through its cooperation with these other organisations, b) an inventory of the organisations to be contacted for cooperation, and c) a brochure describing the work of UNGEGN, its procedures, which explains the rationale behind its resolutions and recommendations.

3. During the 15th meeting of UNGEGN, in the report of the convenor (WP57), an inventory was made of the organisations that would have to be contacted, and those that were contacted already were listed. The UNGEGN members that attended the 15th meeting were asked to help with contacting the remaining organisations.

4. The International Cartographic Association consented in having a special meeting on the Standardization of Geographical Names at its 1991 international conference in Bournemouth, UK. At this special session Messrs Lewis (UK), Bohme (FRG), Kadmon (Israel) and Ormeling (Netherlands) presented papers.

5. At this international conference of the International Cartographic Association in Bournemouth, UK 1991, it became clear that there are many misconceptions about the work of UNGEGN, and that it would be most useful to distribute brochures about UNGEGN's work amongst UN member states and the scientific community.

6. For the 6th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names a brochure was designed to publicize the UNGEGN's endeavours. This brochure was sent to UNGEGN chairman Raper, Co-chair Kerfoot, UNGEGN WG on Evaluation chairman Randall and ad-hoc WG co-member Narhi for comments and suggestions. Their welcome and most useful comments were all gathered and applied to the brochure, and a new corrected version was prepared to be discussed in New York.

7. This brochure is added to this paper, and the conference is asked to decide whether this brochure, or a similar text, can serve the aims of strengthening cooperation of UNGEGN with other technical and professional groups.

the results of its endeavours.

Those organisations of professionals actively using (collecting, mapping, studying, broadcasting) geographical names will be contacted, will be provided with documentary material and will be asked to provide some space for the issue of geographical names standardization at their meetings. This will help them to get acquainted with the progress that the UN has made in this field. It will in particular explain the rationale behind the UN resolutions and recommendations in the field of national standardization, the conversion of names between writing systems, the use of exonyms and the agreements that have been reached regarding naming features beyond a single sovereignty (for example transboundary names, ocean and submarine topography names, names in Antarctica and extraterrestrial names).
UNGEGN also intends to familiarize these related groups with the courses, manuals, newsletters and other publications it has developed, in order to share the general body of knowledge that has been developed in this field.
This is all intended to benefit the communication about places!

/...

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (UNGEGN)

Since 1967, the United Nations has served world communications by promoting the standardization of geographical names. Six UN international conferences have been dedicated to practices to help assure that communications about places are accurate.

For further information, write to:
Dr Kadri ElArabi, Secretary UNGEGN,
Chief, Infrastructure Branch NRED/DTCD,
United Nations, New York 10007

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION of GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES - UNGEGN

The Beginning

For many years, geographers and cartographers recognized that variations in the spelling of geographical names hindered accurate communications within and among nations. In 1959, a group of experts from several nations discussed the topic with UN officials.
Following recommendations, the UN agreed to hold a conference in 1967. The UN also created another body - the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) - to meet between conferences. This is a scientific body, in which geographers, cartographers, linguists, histonans and surveyors cooperate in order to address the aims of UN in this field:

To have one standardized Roman alphabet orthography for each geographical name, that denotes a specific geographic object (country, island, river, region, field, town, mountain, etc.). If this standardized name is transferred to other writing systems, it is the UN's aim to have only one version in each writing system. When this goal is reached, there will be no more confusion about selecting appropriate spellings from various alternatives.

Present confusion

Because different conversion systems are used for example from the Cyrillic alphabet different versions of names emerge. The name of a major Siberian river may be written as Jenissei or Ienissei or Yenisey on

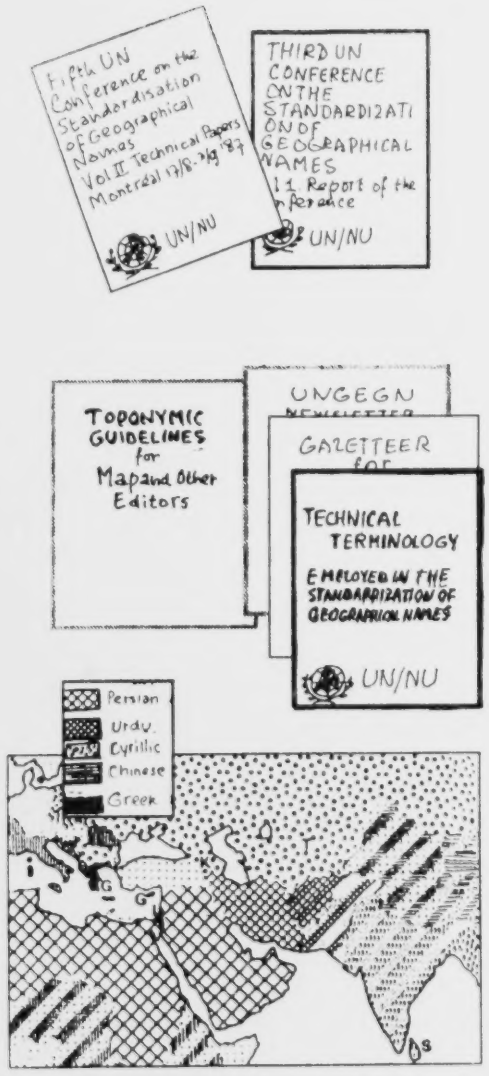
different Roman alphabet maps. As a result it will be difficult to find the name in an atlas index, and inhabitants of different countries will have difficulty in deciding whether they are referring to the same river.

Similarly, the impact on journalists can be significant. Correspondents from different news agencies may use different conversion systems in referring to places. The editors and readers may have difficulty understanding that news about Basra refers to the same city as news about Al-Bassorah. Expensive mistakes are made because various name forms exist in languages written in the Roman alphabet, for instance Capetown, Kaapstad and Le Cap (all names for the same place) or Vienna, Wien, Wenen and Bécs (all referring to the capital of Austria).

UNGEGN policies

What is the UN doing to prevent the confusion of different spellings of names? It has developed an elaborate programme supported by many countries in the world. The programme has the following points:

- stimulate the establishment of national names authorities in member states
- develop national names standardization
- encourage member states to publish national gazetteers (lists of geographical names showing their official spelling and coordinates)
- provide help in establishing national methods for automated processing of names
- provide training courses and manuals for geographic name gathering, processing and treatmen



UNGEGN Publications

- promote development of conversion systems
- provide documentation on conversion systems and gazetteers
- initiate a programme of publishing toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for each UN member state

Present Results of UN programmes

At the Sixth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, in New York 1992, it was stated that national names standardization is being undertaken in over 3/4th of UN member states. National names authorities responsible for national standardization are active in 60 countries. Conversion systems into the Roman alphabet from other principal writing systems have been established: for Cyrillic, Chinese, Amharic, Thai, Greek, Ivrite and Persian in the Arabic script.
The number of UN-sponsored toponymic training courses is increasing. More and more digital geographical names databases are established, and toponymic guidelines have been published for most countries in the Northern hemisphere.

Future Goals

Of course, UNGEGN aims at a 100% coverage, and will continue its effort in that direction. At the same time, however, it intends to strengthen its relations with other technical and professional groups that actively deal with geographical names in their work. By contacting these organisations UNGEGN hopes to improve and strengthen its programme, to get more support, and on the other hand to speed up the dissemination of

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.85/L.89
11 August 1992

ENGLISH ONLY

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

Report of the Netherlands

Paper submitted by the Netherlands**

---

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by Ferjan Ormeling.

92-37615 3349f (E) 180892 200892

/...

1. Summary

Though a national geographical names authority is still lacking in the Netherlands, the country still manages to participate in the work of UNGEGN. The problem of having no organization that can confer official status to the spelling of geographical names has been circumvented by a procedure devised by the country's mapping organisations to take those geographical name spellings as the official ones that have been mentioned in some official act or charter, such as the Municipality-law or the Elections-law.

These names are collected and documented by the Topographic Survey, and it is this organisation that lists them in gazetteers and toponymic names files. The work on name files has been boosted recently by the cooperation of a private publisher, Wolters-Noordhoff, that initiated a publications programme of topographic map series at the scale of 1:50 000 and 1:25 000 in atlas format, for which names indexes were required. These name index files were later extended by the Topographic Survey to comply with NATO standards in this field.

Work has been done, the last five years, on the production of a list of country names, as a precursor of a more extended list of exonyms. As the list of country names has to be approved of by both Belgium and the Netherlands (the official decisions regarding the Dutch language have to be approved by a joint Belgian-Netherlands linguistic body, the "Taalunie") the decision process is an extended one, and no early official approval is expected.

The Netherlands have been active in the recent past in the organisation of toponymy courses and are prepared to continue this active role.

2. National Standardization

The Dutch spelling law of 1947 stated that this law would not be applicable to geographical names (streetnames excepted) but that the spelling of these geographical names in the Netherlands would be decided on later, and would be defined in a special act. Though a proposal for this act has been prepared for and presented to the Minister of Education in 1974, there has been no reaction yet. In default of decision-making in this field, the present procedure in ascertaining geographical names spelling is to look for official acts and charters that contain geographical names, and to take the spellings used therein, even if these acts were never passed with the aim of defining the orthography of the geographical names they contained. But this is the procedure used by the Topografische Dienst Nederland (Topographic Survey of the Netherlands), Rijkswaterstaat (Water Management Board) and the Hydrografische Dienst (Hydrographic Office).

2. There is no official National geographical names authority in the Netherlands, though the necessary expertise is certain-

ly available, for instance at the P.J.Meertens Institute for Dialectology and Onomastics, of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences in Amsterdam. It was here that the proposal for the Minister of Education mentioned in §2 was prepared, under the directorship of Prof.Dr.D.P.Blok, well-known to UNGEGN.

3. Gazetteers/Toponymic data files

In the period September 1987-March 1988 a gazetteer for the Topographic map of the Netherlands on the scale 1:50 000 series was elaborated by the Topografische Dienst Nederland, it was printed and published by that same organization in Emmen in June 1988. It bears the title "Namenregister Kaartserie 1:50.000 (M 733)". In the same year a revised edition of the gazetteer for the Topographic map of the Netherlands on the scale 1:250 000 series was published as well.

These gazetteers contain all the feature names appearing on these map series, object codes, geographical coordinates as well as UTM coordinates, administrative codes, sheet and edition numbers of the maps the names have been taken from, and some remarks that refer to the abbreviations used. In the absence of a National Geographical Names Authority that can confer them official status, the spelling of the geographical names corresponds to the orthography used in current official documents.

4. Both the gazetteers mentioned in §3 can be obtained in digital format as well. The gazetteer of the 1:50 000 topographic mapseries is a spin-off of a joint project to publish this 1:50 000 map series in atlas format, by the Topographic Survey and Wolters-Noordhoff publishing house. The first edition of this atlas was published in 1987, a third edition is prepared now. As an atlas should contain an index, a list of geographical names was produced to serve this purpose. This basic file has since been extended to contain a more detailed categorization.

5. At the same time, a project has been under way to publish the Topographic map of the Netherlands at the scale 1:25 000 series in atlas format. The last volume of this 14 volume series was published in november 1991. All these 1:25 000 atlas volumes have their indexes, produced from separate files. A combination of these files is for sale from Wolters-Noordhoff Atlas Productions, PO Box 58, 9700 MB, Groningen. Next to the names it contains object codes, local coordinates and administrative data.

Eventually, after processing, this 1:25 000 names database will be for sale as well from the Topografische Dienst Nederland (PO Box 115, 7800 AV Emmen). To the Wolters Noordhoff 1:25 000 file UTM coordinates, NATO object codes, and sheet and edition numbers will be added.

6. Glossary of terms

The Netherlands representative participated in the work on the production and definition of a glossary of terms in the langu-

ages of the Dutch and German-speaking Division of UNGEGN, coordinated by the chairman, Prof. Spiess, on behalf of the Working Group for Terminology.

7. List of Country Names

The Governments of Belgium and the Netherlands empowered a new body, the Nederlandse Taalunie (Dutch Language Union) to produce a list of country names, to serve as the official norm. The ad-hoc commission charged with this task (the Commission for foreign geographical names, chaired by Prof.dr.D.P.Blok) presented this list for approval in June 1989. After preliminary study and corrections applied by the ad-hoc Commission the list is again studied by the Taalunie since 1990 for approval. This official approval is necessary before the list can be implemented for official use. The contents of the list has been circulated by the Netherlands cartographic journal "Kartografisch Tijdschrift".

8. List of Exonyms

Pending the decision of the Nederlandse Taalunie on the approval of the List of Country Names, the second task of the ad-hoc Commission for foreign geographical names has been postponed.

9. Minority names

An increasing number of toponyms in Friesland province, a Frisian language minority area in the Netherlands, is represented on official topographic maps in their Frisian version. A number of municipality names and hydronyms have been officially approved recently by municipal and water management board authorities in their Frisian version. Names of larger populated places are still mostly represented in the Dutch language only on the topographic map series, though the number of exceptions is growing, as a joint programme of changing Dutch name versions on both maps, signposts and in official texts into their Frisian versions is gaining momentum.

10. Training courses in applied toponymy

In november 1989 Prof.dr.F.J.Ormeling sr. from the Netherlands organized, together with Prof.dr.J.Rais, chairman of Bakosurtanal, Indonesia, and in cooperation with ITC, Netherlands, a seminar on applied toponymy in Cipanas, Indonesia, intended for participants from SE Asia and the SW Pacific. This seminar was recommended by UNGEGN. In this two-week training course lecturers from Australia (2), Canada (1), Hungary (1), Indonesia (5), the Netherlands (3) and the United Kingdom (1) participated.

11. At the 15th UNGEGN meeting in Geneva, Prof.dr.F.J.Ormeling jr was elected convenor of the Working Group for toponymy courses. In June/July 1992 he participated in the organisation and the lecturing programme of a toponymy course intended for participants from Southern African countries organized by UNGEGN chairman Dr.P.Raper, co-chair Helen Kerfoot and the

convenor of the UNGEGN terminology group Prof.dr.N.Kadmon, and the University of Pretoria.

12. The Netherlands had offered, at the September 1991 UNGEGN meeting to organize a follow-up toponymy seminar at the International Institute of Aerospace Surveys and Earth Sciences (ITC) in the Netherlands. The UNGEGN secretariat, however, stated at that time that its budget for 1992/3 would not provide an opening for such a seminar.

13. Participation in UN meetings.

Representatives from the Netherlands participated in both the 14th and the 15th meetings of UNGEGN in Geneva, and in the Dutch and German Division meetings in Vienna, Geneva and Rapperswil, Switzerland.

14. Other matters

The Netherlands and Belgium have been cooperating, together with other European Community member countries, in the production of a map of the Community's lesser used languages, to be published by the EC Bureau for Lesser Used Languages (7, Cearnog Mhuirfean, Baile Atha Cliath 2, Ireland). The purpose of this map is to show the areas settled by autochthonous minority language groups. The map was ready for publication by the EC in June 1989.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.85/L.90
11 August 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda*

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL NAMES AUTHORITIES

Collection and treatment of geographical names by the Toponymic Commission of the Topographic and Cartographic Institute of Guinea

Paper submitted by Guinea

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

92-37653 3530d (E)

/...

PARTICIPATION BY GUINEA AT THE SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

(New York, 25 August-3 September 1992)

Guinean delegation (Guinea-Conakry)

1. Ms. Aminata Bah: Director-General of the Topographic and Cartographic Institute of Guinea (ITC-Guinea)

2. Mr. Abdoul Goudoussi Diallo: Geographer-Cartographer, Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Humanities of the University of Conakry

THEME

Collection and treatment of geographical names by the Toponymic Commission of the Topographic and Cartographic Institute of Guinea

In the context of map production, the Topographic and Cartographic Institute (ITC) of Guinea has set up a Topographic Commission, which was created in 1989 with the following structure:

One (1) President

One (1) Secretary-General

One (1) Rapporteur

Four (4) members

The Commission is due to be expanded to form a National Toponymic Commission which will include representatives of all ministerial departments and services concerned with geographical activities.

The Toponymic Commission of ITC is operational but, because of the slenderness of the resources available (both financial and logistic), it has not been able to achieve all the objectives it had set itself, namely, to list, correct, transcribe and computerize all the toponyms that are or that should be included on maps of Guinea.

However, for two years the Toponymic Commission of ITC has been engaged on a research programme covering the whole of the national territory. In this context a mission travelled extensively through Basse Guinée (Guinée Maritime) in March 1990 and:

Carried out a phonetic check of toponyms;

Transcribed toponyms in accordance with the "principles for the transcription of African toponyms";

Made a listing of villages that have disappeared and of those recently created, particularly in border areas. The numerous conflicts in the north-west part of Guinea (towards Guinea-Bissau) and in the south of the country (Sierra Leone, Liberia) have resulted in a major movement of population groups, the disappearance of human settlements and the appearance of new villages and hamlets.

These tasks, carried out on maps on the scale 1:200,000 and 1:50,000 (IGN-France), made it possible to draw up a corrected list of the toponyms of Guinée Maritime and to computerize the listing (a cassette is available from ITC).

In addition, the listing of the place-names of the other three natural regions of the country is almost completed. It will subsequently be computerized.

Lastly, the Topographic and Cartographic Institute is continuing its efforts to finalize the project to set up a National Toponymic Commission with responsibility for the standardization of the geographical names of Guinea.

There remain, however, major problems in connection with further work on the tasks of surveying, exploitation of data and computerization:

The financing of field missions;

The training of staff;

Stimulation of awareness at all levels, particularly among decision makers.

The ITC Toponymic Commission is trying to obtain funding and equipment in order to carry out the programme that has been started. In the immediate future, as it has computer equipment for the exploitation and storage of the data acquired, it would like to organize training seminars. In the medium and long term, it plans to arrange missions to the other three natural regions (Moyenne Guinée, Haute Guinée and Guinée forestière) in order to complete the work begun in Guinée Maritime (see attached listing). That requires funding, which is to be sought at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels.

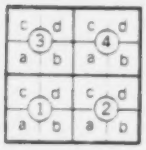
GUINEA

MAP ON SCALE 1:50,000
AND MAP OF MOSAIC PHOTOGRAPHS ON SCALE 1:50,000

Situation as at
31 March 1982

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE

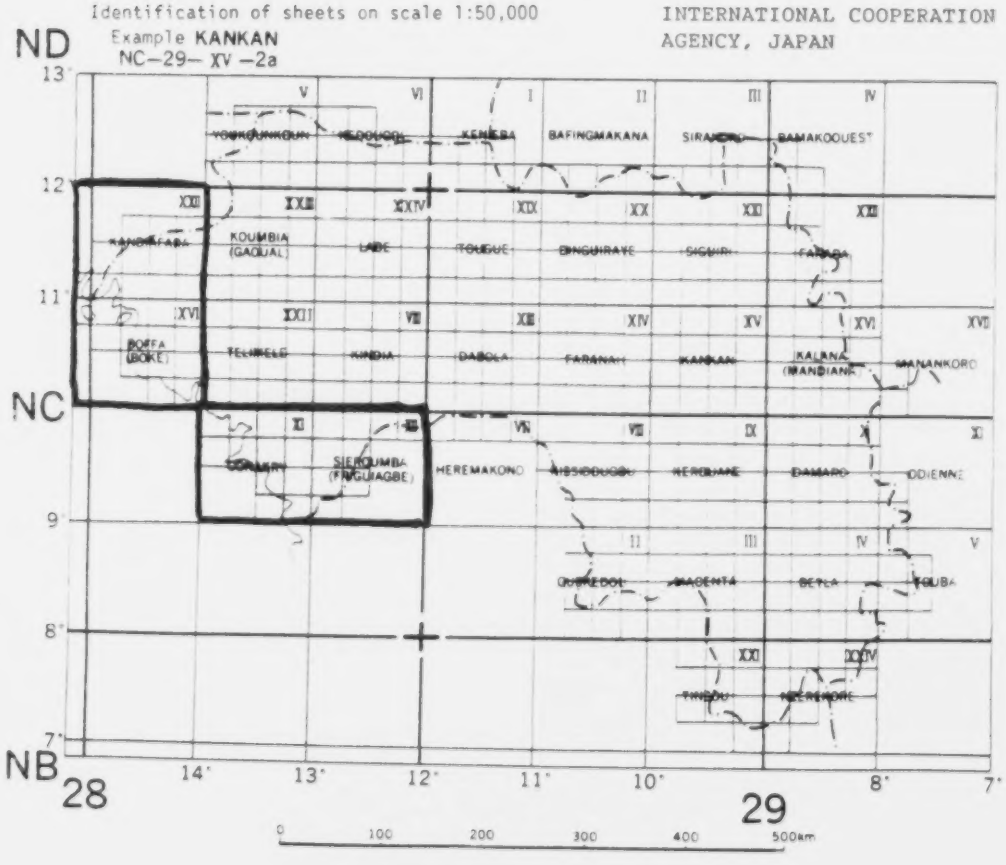
Work completed	In progress or planned	
	March 1978 December 1979	Aerial survey
☐	June 1980 March 1982	Definitive edition in colour
☐	June 1982 March 1982	Checking of mosaic photographs



JICA

Identification of sheets on scale 1:50,000
Example KANKAN
NC–29– XV –2a

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY, JAPAN



UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.85/L.91
12 August 1992

ENGLISH ONLY

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

Report of Ukraine

Paper submitted by Ukraine**

---

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by the Chief, Main Board on Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre of the Cabinet of Ministers.

92-38376 3361g (E) 180892 210892

/...

I. GEOGRAPHY OF UKRAINE

1. Ukraine, a State in south-eastern Europe, proclaimed its independence on 24 August 1991, and confirmed that status by a nationwide referendum on 1 December of the same year. The territory of Ukraine is 603,700 square kilometres. It has a population of 52,056,000, of which 35,297,000 are urban population, and 16,759,000 live in rural areas.

2. The majority of the population are Ukrainians; there are also Russians, Poles, Byelorussians, Tatars and other nations and peoples.

3. The relief of the territory is mostly flat; only in the west and south are there mountains of middle height: the eastern Carpathians and Crimean mountains.

4. The climate is moderate continental with mild winter and warm summer.

5. The national economy consists typically of developed agriculture, mining complex, instrument making, machine-building, chemicals and other branches of industry.

In its administrative-territorial divisions the territory of Ukraine consists of the Crimean republic and 24 regions.

Ukraine, as one of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was among the founders of the United Nations.

II. PREVIOUS MAPPING AND CREATION OF THE NATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC SERVICE

6. During the period when Ukraine was part of the Russian Empire, and later, one of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, its territory was closely studied from the point of view of cartography. Aerogeodetic and cartographic enterprises located on the territory of Ukraine, but subordinated to the centre in Moscow, compiled, prepared for publication and published, in Russian, topographic maps of the whole territory of Ukraine at scales 1:10,000; 1:25,000; 1:50,000; 1:100,000; 1:200,000; 1:500,000; 1:1,000,000. Topographic plans of most of the cities were compiled and published at scales: 1:2,000; 1:5,000. Information on published maps was constantly updated; maps were published in new editions many times. For the requirements of science and education political-administrative and geographical maps were issued at scales 1:750,000; physical and economic maps at scale 1:1,000,000; and political-administrative, geographical, tourist, physical and economic maps of each region at scale 1:400,000. A complex atlas of Ukraine was published at the beginning of the 1960s. The 1970s witnessed the appearance of Atlas of Natural Conditions and Resources of the Ukrainian SSR. A geographical atlas, Ukrainian SSR, Moldavian SSR, appeared at the beginning of the 1980s.

7. In the 1970s and 1980s recreational and tourist cartography was widely developed. Tourist atlases on "Crimea", "Azov-Black Sea Coast of the USSR", "Ukrainian Carpathians", "Kiev" and "Lvov" were compiled and published in this period. Sightseeing maps and route maps of the most popular regions, tourist maps of cities and of passenger traffic in the largest cities were published.

8. At the same time, relief maps in large volumes and globes were produced. A relief map of the world at scale 1:15,000,000 was issued in eight sheets; a relief map of the USSR at scale 1:4,000,000 was issued in eight sheets. Also published were "Map of Amelioration and Water Resources Development in the Ukrainian SSR", relief maps of the Crimea, Carpathians, political and physical maps, tectonic globes of the Earth at different scales, and globes of the Moon and celestial sphere.

9. For educational purposes in secondary schools and for local lore studies, there were published local lore and reference atlases of the Vinnitsa, Volyn, Donetsk, Transcarpathia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kiev, Lviv, Rivno, Kharkiv and Chernigiv regions. Work is under way in preparing for publication atlases of Zaporizhya, Odessa, Kirovograd, Sumy, Chernivtsi and Cherkassy.

10. The content of the above atlases gives the reader complete information on natural conditions, economic and cultural development and the history of each region.

11. In 1990, schoolchildren of the Kiev region received a rather original publication: Atlas for Young Tourist-Student: Local Lore of the Kiev Region. The originality of this atlas consists in the practical nature of the content: readers not only obtain information, but they may acquire certain habits regarding various components of the environment. A sightseeing tourist map of the region is given at scale 1:300,000 showing the most popular routes. The atlas also contains recommendations for planning walking tours and methods of finding one's bearings on the terrain, etc.

12. Requirements of the national economy, science, culture and education were satisfied at a rather high level by cartographic aids, published in Russian. After independence, it was necessary to create a State cartographic service; this was set up on 1 November 1991. The service was established, under the name of the Main Board on Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (Ukrgeodescartographia) as the State body to supervise topographic, geodetic and cartographic activities carried out on the territory of Ukraine.

13. The interests of the Main Board on Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre include an aerogeodetic enterprise, the Institute of Engineering, Geodetic Prospecting and Photography, scientific publishing and map compiling, cartographic production, an optical-mechanical plant, a technical school and relevant small business enterprises.

14. The main function of the Ukrgeodescartographia consists in developing the main directions of topographic, geodetic and cartographic advances, carrying

out systematic research in the field of geodesy, cartography and instrument making, and scientific and engineering information.

15. Research in the field of cartography and cartographic works are also done by various institutions and organizations, such as the Geographical Institute of the Academy of Science, by institutions under the Education Minsitry (the universities of Kiev, Kharkiv, Lviv, Chernivtsi, the Lutsk Pedagogical Institute and others) and by publishing houses (Ukrainian Encyclopaedia, "Osvita"). The coordinating function of Ukrgeodescartographia is therefore extremely important in map compiling and publishing and in standardizing the use of geographical names.

16. Ukrgeodescartographia as the State cartographic service is entitled to represent Ukraine in cartographic matters in relations with international organizations, and in cooperation and establishment of economic, scientific, and engineering ties with foreign cartographic and geodetic services.

17. Cartographers of Ukraine, scientists, engineering and technological personnel of enterprises, experts and professors of higher educational establishments are united in the Society of Geodesy, Aerospace Photography and Cartography, a public organization whose main purpose is to find solutions to scientific and technological problems, to develop science and technology and implement scientific achievements in production.

III. STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

18. In its activities on standardization of geographical names in Ukraine the Ukrgeodescartographia adheres to the following documents:

Law of the Ukrainian SSR on languages in the Ukrainian SSR of 28 October 1989.

"State programme for development of the Ukrainian language and other national languages in the Ukrainian SSR for the period up to the year 2000", approved by the Council of Ministers on 12 February 1991.

19. The law on languages in the Ukrainin SSR states:

(1) In Ukraine, toponyms are created and reproduced in the Ukrainian language. Toponyms may also be reproduced in the national language of the majority of population of this or that locality.

(2) Reproduction of Ukrainian toponyms in other languages shall be done in transcription.

(3) Toponyms from beyond the borders of Ukraine shall be reproduced in the Ukrainian language in transcription from the original language.

(4) Cartographic publications to be used in Ukraine shall be prepared and published in the Ukrainian language.

20. The State programme for development of the Ukrainian language and other national languages, in the chapter "Directives for ministries and institutions providing for use of the State Ukrainian language and other national languages" directs:

(1) Develop transcription of Ukrainian toponyms for reproduction in other languages, and rules of spelling in the Ukrainian language of toponyms from beyond the borders of the Ukrainian SSR.

(2) Prepare and publish in the Ukrainian language maps, atlases, globes, reference books and other cartographic publications to be used in the Ukrainian SSR.

21. In accordance with these legal acts, and realizing the importance of the problem of standardizing geographical names both for Ukraine and for the world community, the Ukrgeodescartographia sets up at the Kiev map compiling enterprise a department whose main purpose is to arrange reproduction of geographical names by enterprises of the Ukrgeodescartographia and other publishing houses. The Government proposes to establish under Ukrgeodescartographia a Joint Commission on geographical names for coordination of use of these names by ministries, departments and various organizations.

IV. TOPONYMIC PUBLICATIONS AND CARTOGRAPHIC WORKS

22. In producing maps of the territory of Ukraine in Ukrainian, the Ukrgeodescartographia recommended to their subordinate enterprises, as well as to the cartographic organizations attached to other ministries and institutions to use as main documents on geographical names the following publications:

Reference book Ukrainian SRR. Administrative-territorial arrangement (Kiev, Main publishing house of the Soviet Ukrainian Encyclopaedia, 1987).

Contains the names of all populated areas of Ukraine.

Dictionary of hydronyms of Ukraine (Kiev, Naukova Dumka, 1979).

Contains names of more than 20,000 rivers and other waterways on the territory of Ukraine.

Dictionary of geographical names of the Ukrainian SRR (Russian-Ukrainian) (Moscow, Nauka, 1976).

Contains names of populated areas and of physico-geographical objects in the map volume of Ukraine in the scale 1:1,000,000.

23. Since before November of 1991 Ukraine did not have its own State cartographic service, the list of cartographic publications in the Ukrainian language is not very long, but it is considerable as to its scientific and

practical weight. It comprises, first of all, "Atlas of the Ukrainian Language" in three volumes; school-local lore atlases of Vinnitsa, Volyn, Donetsk, Kiev, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Transcarpathia, Kharkiv, Chernigiv regions; maps for the Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopaedia, for the Geographical Encyclopaedia of Ukraine and for some other publications.

24. Of interest is the original Atlas of the Ukrainian Language prepared for publication and published jointly by the Institute of Linguistics and Institute of Social Sciences of the Acedemy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Naukova Dumka publishing house, the Kiev scientific-publishing map-compiling enterprise and the Vinnitsa cartographic factory.

25. In the three-volume edition, with the help of modern methods of linguistic cartography, dialect elements at all levels were shown, and their areas were synthesized on summary maps showing the territorial spread of dialect units of the Ukrainian language. The atlas also reflects contacts of the Ukrainian language with neighbouring languages.

26. This atlas is, to a certain extent, unique in its contents.

27. The Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopaedia (12 volumes) contains maps of natural conditions, resources, economy, history of the world as a whole, of some continents, oceans, countries and of Ukraine and its regions.

28. The Geographical Encyclopaedia of Ukraine gives, on the basis of modern achievements of the geographical science, information on the natural environment and natural resources, centres of production and branch structure of the economy, population, peculiarities of natural and industrial territorial complexes, and establishment and development of the geographical sciences. The Encyclopaedia contains about 900 maps of Ukraine, of its administrative units (regions, districts) and certain areas of particular characteristics: climatic, geological, environmental, economic and others.

29. The following maps are being prepared for publication today:

Political-administrative map of Ukraine; scale 1:500,000

Political-administrative map of Ukraine; scale 1:1,000,000

Physical school map of Ukraine; scale 1:1,000,000

Economic school map of Ukraine; scale 1:1,000,000

Series of administrative and geographic maps of regions of Ukraine

Physical map of the world with the scale 1:15,000,000

Other cartographic works.

V. STATE PROGRAMME FOR FULFILLING THE CARTOGRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE ECONOMY, SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND CULTURE

30. On the initiative of the Ukrgeodescartographia and the Geographical Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences the State Programme for satisfying the cartographic requirements of Ukraine is under development now.

31. The programme aims at:

(a) Promotion of development of cartography regarding:

Environment

History

Linguistics

Hydrometeorology

Recreation-tourism

Education;

(b) Development of the national atlas of Ukraine. The atlas should describe natural conditions, economy, population and culture of Ukraine as of the beginning of the twenty-first century;

(c) Setting-up of automated data banks and on their basis - automated systems of flexible mapping;

(d) Development of a series of medium-scale maps of Ukraine of reference type, prepared on the common methodological and scientific-methodical basis, on:

Population;

Transportation system;

General economy;

Soil usage;

Ecological situation;

Medico-geographical situation;

Environment protection, etc.

Development of a series of educational maps on:

Administrative-territorial arrangement;

Minerals;

Soils;

Climate, etc.

(e) Development of a series of educational atlases for teaching history and geography in the 5th to 10th forms of a secondary school;

(f) Preparing for publication a map for the course "World geography".

(g) Preparing for publication maps, atlases of Ukraine and its regions for the use of Ukrainians living abroad in the United States, Canada, Australia and other regions of the world, in the Ukrainian and English languages.

32. The draft programme also envisages fulfilment of other actions directed at the creation of national cartography and fruitful cooperation of Ukraine with the world community in the field of cartography.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS

33. With the help of scientific organizations and broad public support, solid ground for the future of national cartography has been laid in the short period of existence of the State cartographic service. At the same time, the importance for Ukrainian cartography of fruitful mutually beneficial cooperation with foreign countries, international organizations and, above all, the United Nations, is fully understood.

34. In consideration of the above, Ukraine would like to declare its wish to become a member of the International Association on Cartography and work in the United Nations Group of Experts on geographical names in the regional group, "Eastern, Central and South-Eastern Europe" and in the former USSR region. Membership in these international groups will allow Ukraine to join the world community in its achievements in the field of cartography as well as contribute to its further development.

35. Even today, after studying the experience of the world community, we could make proposals as to the further direction of work on the standardization of geographical names in Ukraine, their reproduction in roman script, production of maps of the territory of Ukraine in the official languages of the United Nations, and broadening the avenues of cooperation for exchange of information.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.85/L.92
11 August 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

Report of Germany

Paper submitted by Germany**

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by the Standiger Ausschuss für Geographische Namen (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names), Frankfurt am Main.

92-38377 3392h (E) 180892 240892

/...

1. The Gazetteer, Federal Republic of Germany (Geographisches Namenbuch Bundesrepublik Deutschland) had its first edition in 1981. Based on a map scale at 1:500,000, it includes the geographical names of the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany as it existed before 3 October 1990 ("West Germany"). A data file of the Gazetteer has been set up and is continually updated. As a result of the German unification it has become a necessity to consider the five new Länder (federal states) Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen and the eastern part of Berlin. A supplementary volume is being prepared, scheduled for publication in 1993. A corresponding data file is being set up simultaneously.

2. As soon as the Supplementary Volume: East to the Gazetteer is available, the data file will allow for the derivation of a concise gazetteer through selection. The concise gazetteer will include selected cities (more than 10,000 inhabitants), particularly significant places, rivers, landscapes etc.

3. A new edition of "Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors - Federal Republic of Germany" has been submitted to the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. It replaces the first edition, published in 1981 which was submitted to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its ninth session. The necessity of a new edition arose from the German unification.

4. The Digital Antarctic Names Data Base of German place-names in the Antarctic is maintained and supplemented so as to include the names assigned within the framework of research done by the German-speaking nations in Antarctica. The Federal Republic of Germany submitted a paper on the set-up of this geographical names database to the Fifth Conference (E/CONF.79/INF/25).

5. In the wake of the German unification, it has also become necessary to prepare a new map of Germany at 1:1 million scale. The new map will be based on the following two maps:

> Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1:1,000,000, Landschaften - Namen und Abgrenzungen; vorläufige Ausgabe (Federal Republic of Germany, 1:1,000,000: landscapes, names and borderlines; preliminary edition) (Frankfurt am Main, 1985);
>
> Regionale geographische Namen der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, 1:800,000 (Regional geographical names in the German Democratic Republic, 1:800,000 scale) (Berlin, 1982).

These activities were dealt with at the fifteenth session of the Group of Experts in working paper No. 47. The new map is scheduled for publication in 1993.

6. As a further result of German unification, activities with regard to the revision of administrative and other geographical names in the Federal Republic of Germany have been initiated. Relevant information was provided in working paper No. 50 of the fifteenth session of the Group of Experts.